

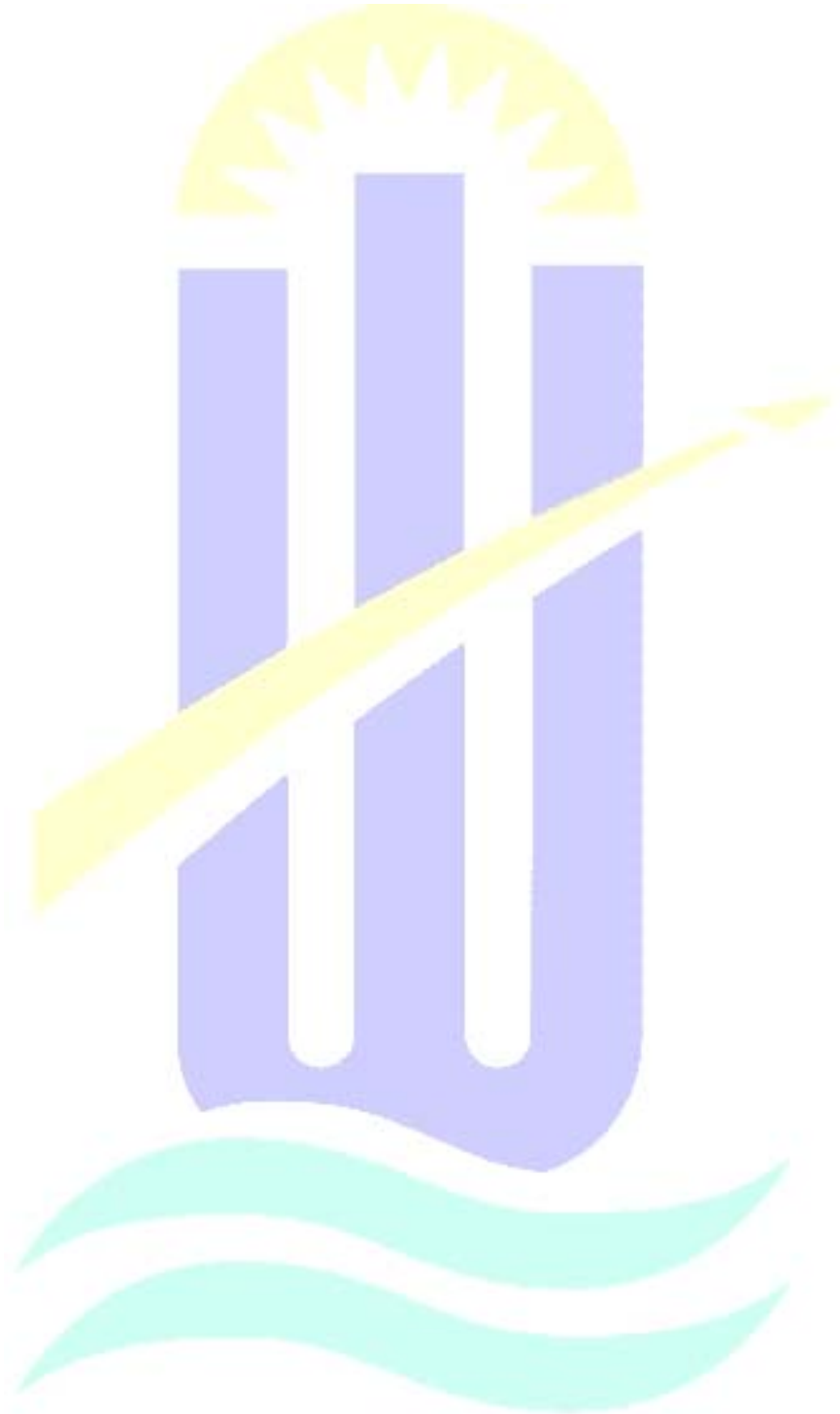
Municipal Court



"I enjoy working for the Municipal Court Probation Office because I see our diverse community and I get to help the people in a positive way. I like to answer questions and assist people by getting the information they need to be successful."

- Colleen McKinney
Probation, Clerk III







Municipal Court exists to impartially uphold the community's laws and facilitate the interests of justice for all citizens in a thorough and fair manner.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Court began using a Risk and Needs based assessment program for evaluating the level of supervision needed for probationers. This system allows limited resources to be targeted towards those probationers deemed at greater risk. Ultimately, this should reduce the number of probation violations.
- Court has began a Court Compliance Unit, focused on assisting defendants comply with court ordered fines and penalties. This program was started on a pilot basis in 2003 and has proven successful for both defendants and the Court.
- Court held an amnesty program in 2003. This allowed 2,133 individuals to clear outstanding balances, without the fear of arrest.
- A new drop box was installed in the second floor lobby, to facilitate payments by defendants.
- A new moving ticket form was recently created. This new form includes a fine schedule and a return address, to simplify the process by which a defendant can comply with the citations.

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Process all cases received.
2. Conduct court ordered evaluations and maintain contact with probationers as required.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Dept. Objective	Program Measure Description	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Projected	2005 Projected
1	Cases Filed	31,617	34,626	29,572	30,560	31,650
1	Criminal cases	7,620	7,691	7,519	7,670	7,830
1	Traffic cases	14,158	15,911	15,106	16,000	17,000
1	Domestic Violence cases	4,398	4,320	3,860	3,780	3,700
1	Environmental Court cases	1,656	1,460	1,179	1,160	1,130
1	DUI cases	2,191	1,864	1,908	1,950	1,990
1	Cases Docketed	153,100	146,963	168,395	171,750	173,980
1	Cases Disposed	35,083	35,217	41,875	38,920	40,330
2	DUI Evaluations	1,005	885	913	900	950
2	Video Court Prisoners supervised	18,104	15,577	14,959	15,000	15,000
2	Number of Probation Revocations	5,525	4,452	2,484	3,000	3,000
2	Number of supervised Probation contacts	26,164	24,044	17,098	18,000	18,000



OVERVIEW

Municipal Court is organized into the Court Clerk's Office and Probation. The Clerk's Office is responsible for processing transactions related to court and traffic records. The Probation Office assists judges in defendant evaluation and monitoring of prisoners and probationers.

Municipal Court operates three traditional courtrooms. In addition, a video court is used to arraign prisoners from the County jail via a video connection. Hearings for traffic violations are held in an Administrative Traffic Court. Environmental cases are heard in a Neighborhood Court rotated among the Police substations. Specialized dockets have been established for driving under the influence (DUI), criminal, domestic violence and traffic offenses

DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

Court operates two divisions: the Court Clerk and the Probation Office. The Clerk's Office is responsible for operating five courtrooms. The Probation Division ensures compliance of defendants to all court ordered restitution and sentencing requirements.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Municipal Court is responsible for collecting court-imposed fines, fees and penalties. These include court fines, traffic fines and fees, diversion fees, court costs, warrant fees and other revenues. The revenues offset a portion of the costs for adjudication, prosecution and enforcement efforts of Municipal Court, the Law Department and the Police Department. A private agency is utilized for aggressive collection of fines and fees.

Municipal Court functions are included in the Court Clerk Division. This includes docket clerks and judges who staff court rooms; customer service clerks who assist citizens either on the telephone or in-person; file clerks who assist in general docket preparation and file processing and other positions that support the general administration of the Court.

The City has invested heavily in technology upgrades to improve the efficiency of court staff. These improvements have focused on reducing paper flow, including file retrieval requirements. Automation changes include the replacement of

The integrated public safety system offers a centralized database shared and utilized by Police, Prosecutors, and Court.

the public safety system and the implementation of an interactive voice response system. The integrated public safety system offers a centralized database to be shared and utilized by Police, Prosecution and Court. The system includes capabilities to utilize bar code and drivers' license scanning, imaging and the Internet. By imaging court materials,

retrieval can occur simultaneously for multiple users in Police, Law and Court, reducing file maintenance efforts and increasing efficiency. Court converted to this new system in 2003.

A new interactive voice response (IVR) system will be implemented for court customers. This system will improve the dissemination of court information and enhance the efficiency of the court clerical staff.

A drug court was established in August 1995, with the goal of breaking the recurring cycle of repeat offenders. It remains the only operating drug court in Kansas

An automated system will quickly direct callers to the appropriate information on their respective court case, or will provide generic information on the court process. Staff will continue to handle calls in which human assistance is necessary.

Public defenders are provided to serve indigent defendants through a contractual relationship. The costs for indigent defense are partially offset by a \$4 per case assessment and co-payments from the defendants. An estimated 10,000 cases are handled by public defenders annually.

A drug court was established in August 1995 and remains the only operating drug court in Kansas. The court operates under the philosophy that a court team can provide better opportunity for long-term changes in drug users. The goal is to break the recurring cycle of repeat offenders. The court works very closely with treatment providers in an attempt to tailor services to each defendant. New drug court software, implemented in 2002, consolidates defendants' information, providing the drug court team one centralized access point.

The Probation Office includes eight probation officers and eight support staff. Staff monitors defendants sentenced to probation to ensure compliance of all requirements, performs pre-sentence investigations ordered by the judges, collects restitution and fingerprints defendants.

Four Service Officers are also included in the Probation Office. The Local Law Enforcement Block Grant currently funds these positions. Prisoner transportation duties and video arraignment functions are the primary responsibilities of these staff.

The Probation Office is also responsible for managing the Wichita Intervention Program. This program provides alcohol education and intervention for eligible first-time defendants who plead guilty to drunk driving. The program couples the state mandated 48 hours of incarceration with a strong programmatic intervention process in an effort to eliminate future offenses. The program is mostly privatized, with program fees that are charged to the defendant (\$250) offsetting all costs



FUTURE CHALLENGES

- The new automation system provides many advantages, particularly in record retrieval. However, data entry challenges have been encountered.
- The Court is continually seeking to collect court ordered payments as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Court Compliance Unit, begun last year as a pilot project, is designed to facilitate defendant compliance.

Municipal Court Budget Summary					
	2003 Actual	2004 Adopted	2004 Revised	2005 Adopted	2006 Approved
Personal Services	3,088,798	3,240,131	3,446,620	3,724,500	3,869,600
Contractual Services	1,329,192	1,699,230	1,817,750	1,855,550	1,781,060
Commodities	54,683	86,730	87,540	92,110	88,860
Capital Outlay	7,189	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Municipal Court Expenditures	4,479,863	5,026,090	5,351,910	5,672,160	5,739,520
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	47,631	76,760	95,150	0	0
ADSAP Fund	110,789	195,540	187,560	195,230	202,620
General Fund	4,321,442	4,753,790	5,069,200	5,476,930	5,536,900
Total Municipal Court Resources	4,479,862	5,026,090	5,351,910	5,672,160	5,739,520
Total positions	66	69	73	75	75
Total part-time positions	29	29	27	27	27
Grant-funded positions	7	4	3	3	3
Total FTE positions	74.75	74.75	77	79	79

For additional information on Municipal Court visit www.wichita.gov



Old County Courthouse

This grand stone courthouse was begun in 1888 on land donated by pioneer D.S. Munger. This picture was taken not long after its completion in 1890. If jeweler Ed Vail was keeping the clocks wound, a duty for which he was paid \$6 a month for many years, the hands would indicate a southwest exposure. The central tower originally extended 90 feet above the slate roof. It served as the seat for county government until 1959 when the new courthouse was constructed across the street. County offices, courtrooms and jail moved to the new \$8.5 million courthouse in 1959. Today the Old County Courthouse houses various county offices.